

# ELAP Expert Review Panel 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Update

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California ELAP  
June 7, 2016

# What brings us here?

- An Expert Review Panel (ERP) performed a comprehensive program review of ELAP
  - Report released October 2015 - identified deficiencies and made recommendations for improving the program
- ELAP developed a work plan to implement recommendations
- Keeping up-to-date
- Our first quarterly webinar on February 8, 2016

# First Quarterly Update – February 8<sup>th</sup> Refresher

Our accomplishments since the release of the ERP report in October 2015:

- Reorganized ELAP
- Adopted internal management system
- Reduced backlog
- Taken 20 enforcement actions
- Established ELTAC foundation
- Implementing communications plan

# Second quarter update webinar

- The goal today is to present the progress we've made since February 8th.
- We'll tell you:
  - Our accomplishments
    - And missteps
  - What we are working on
- Secondary goal – Empower you to participate via ELTAC
  - We want feedback on how we are doing

# Accomplishments

# Our accomplishments since February 8<sup>th</sup>

- **Reinitiated ELTAC**
- Established our State Agency Partners Committee
- Implementing an internal management system
- Secured funding for an assessor training contract
- Hit communications milestones

# Reinitiated ELTAC

**Goal:** Create a functional advisory committee.

- ERP recommendation

# Reinitiated ELTAC

- We selected 18 members for the committee
  - Andy Eaton elected as Chairperson
- We've held two meetings
  - Next meeting - June 15th



# ELAP's Commitment

- We are committed to a clear set of ELTAC charges
- ELAP is taking their advice
- Committed to providing written responses any time we do not take their advice
- Committed at the highest possible level – State Water Board

# What is ELTAC working on?

- ELTAC is actively working on three issues:
  - Field of Testing lists
  - Fees
  - Laboratory Accreditation Standard

# Field of Testing Lists

**Goal:** ELTAC will advise us on how to organize our FOT lists.

# Exploring a Fee Structure

**Goal:** ELTAC to advise us on how to adopt an sustainable fee structure

# Exploring Fee Structures

- ELAP held fees listening sessions
- Scheduled discussions with ELTAC about fee structures

# Evaluating Laboratory Accreditation Standards

**Goal:** Adopt a clear laboratory accreditation standard that works for California.

# Evaluating Laboratory Accreditation Standard

- ELTAC requested an extension of the deadline for selection of an accreditation standard approach
  - Request was granted - Deadline extended by 6 months, September 2016

# Questions

- Do we need a new technical standard?
- Should we include a quality management system in California's standard?
- How many PT's should we require?



# Evaluating Laboratory Accreditation Standards

- Actively working with ELTAC to provide requested information to formulate their technical advice
  - Hearing testimony on adopting an existing standard
  - Discussing writing our own, unique standard
  - Considering regulatory agency / data user needs
  - Bringing laboratory community input to the committee
- Will vote and make recommendation to ELAP before September deadline

# Evaluating Laboratory Accreditation Standards

- ELAP will make a recommendation to the Board in September
- Tentative date - September 20th Board Workshop

# ELTAC is your voice

- ELTAC's mission statement:

*“ELTAC serves to facilitate transparency, as an inclusive conduit for the fair and balanced exchange of information and dialogue between the laboratory community, California regulatory agencies, data users, and ELAP. ELTAC works to provide support, critical stakeholder review, scientifically valid advice and unbiased guidance to ELAP on technical issues and the foreseeable effects that ELAP regulatory decisions may have, to ensure public health and environmental protection. ELTAC partners with ELAP to create and maintain a high quality accreditation program to meet the needs of the laboratory community, California regulatory agencies, and data users.”*

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**Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP)**



ELAP provides evaluation and accreditation of environmental testing laboratories to ensure the quality of analytical data used for regulatory purposes to meet the requirements of the State's drinking water, wastewater, shellfish, food, and hazardous waste programs. The State agencies that monitor the environment use the analytical data from these accredited laboratories. ELAP-accredited laboratories have demonstrated capability to analyze environmental samples using approved methods.

Home Application Technical Resources **ELTAC** FAQ ELAP Reforms Quick Links

- » The Environmental Laboratory Technical Advisory Committee (ELTAC) was established to assist ELAP in technical matters that impact the laboratory community. The committee is composed of approximately fifteen representatives from the laboratory community and data users to speak on behalf of interested parties and certified laboratories.
- » [ELTAC By-Laws](#)
- » [Members](#)
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**More Information**

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# ELTAC Membership

**Mindy Boele, CWEA**

**Jill Brodt, Commercial**

**Bruce Burton, DDW**

**Gail Cho, DFW**

**Stephen Clark, Specialty Labs**

**Ronald Coss, CWEA**

**Huy Do, CASA**

**Andy Eaton, Multi-state Labs**

**Miriam Ghabour, Municipal**

**Bruce Godfrey, ACIL**

**Anthony Gonzalez, Public Health Labs**

**Rich Gossett, Commercial/Academia**

**David Kimbrough, Municipal**

**Mark Koekemoer, Municipal**

**Bruce LaBelle, DTSC**

**Allison Mackenzie, Commercial**

**Gilda Neshvad, Haz Waste/Commercial**

**Renee Spears, SWRCB**

# Our accomplishments since Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>

- Reinitiated ELTAC
- **Established our State Agency Partners Committee**
- Implementing an internal management system
- Secured funding for an assessor training contract
- Hit communications milestones

# Established State Agency Partners Committee

**Goal:** Create a functional committee of regulatory agencies.



# The State Agency Partners Committee is functional

- Selected 10 members representing six California agencies
  - Selected Carol Wortham, Department of Toxic Substances Control, as spokesperson
- We have held two meetings
  - Next meeting scheduled for July
- Primary accomplishment to date:
  - Defined agency needs to assist ELTAC in deliberation on laboratory accreditation standard



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# Secured Funding for Training Contract

**Goal:** Increase the technical proficiency of ELAP assessors to improve consistency in audits and service to laboratories.

# Secured Funding for Training Contract

- We secured funding for ELAP assessor training
- Their training will include:
  - Analytical methods
  - Auditing skills
  - On-site assessments of some laboratories
- The result will be better laboratory audits

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# Implementing an Internal Management System

**Goal:** Standardize ELAP's internal operations to improve services to stakeholders.

# Implementing an Internal Management System

- We created and implemented 10 more SOPs
- Consulted a business efficiency expert
- These actions have established:
  - Expectations for employee conduct
  - Accountability to management
  - Better and more consistent audits

# Standard Operating Procedures

- How to write an SOP
- How to deal with Complaints Against ELAP and ELAP Staff
- How to handle Referrals from Regulatory Agency Partners
- Proficiency Testing Unit - Data Input, acceptable/non-acceptable PT results
- How to Process an Application Process
- Updating ELAP's Certification Offerings
- Noticing an ELTAC meeting
- Updating ELAP website
- Fulfilling an invoice request
- Electronic Content Management – electronic files

# Hit Communications Milestones

**Goal:** Improve communications from ELAP to the laboratory community, and vice versa.

- Inaugural program newsletter, The Lab Report, released
  - Next edition – summer 2016
- Redesigned webpage went live
  - FAQs
  - Technical resources
  - ELTAC page
  - GIS Laboratory Map
    - Usability issues?





# How you can get involved

Please engage with your ELTAC representative